

# **Internet Resources for Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom**

## **Resources for Differentiating Content**

### **Text to Speech**

*Text-to-speech offers a way for students whose reading abilities are below grade level to access print. As long as the text is in a digital format, i.e., Word document, Internet web page, PowerPoint presentation, students can listen to access the information in the text. The programs below are available at no cost.*

### **Free Text to Speech Programs**

#### **ReadPlease –**

A simple to use text-to-speech program. Text must be copied into the program's window to be read aloud. ReadPlease 2003 is the free version. Windows only.

[www.readplease.com](http://www.readplease.com)

#### **Free NaturalReader Version 7**

Reads any digital text on the computer screen. Place cursor where you want it to start reading. Limited voices and no highlighting of the spoken word. Windows only

[www.naturalreaders.com](http://www.naturalreaders.com)

#### **Accessibar**

Places a toolbar of accessibility features in the Firefox web browser. Reads web pages aloud. For Mac or Windows

<http://accessibar.mozdev.org/installation.html>

#### **WordTalk -**

A plug-in for Word for Windows. It places a toolbar inside your Word document that provides speech feedback with highlighting as well as a talking dictionary and spell checker. Can be set-up to read tests to students and have them type answers. Windows only

<http://www.oatsoft.org/Software/wordtalk>

#### **PowerTalk –**

A plug-in for PowerPoint for Windows. It provides speech output of any text that is on a PowerPoint slide.

<http://www.oatsoft.org/Software/PowerTalk>

#### **PDFaloud**

A tool available in Adobe Acrobat Reader to read PDF documents provided the author of the document enabled speech function. Windows or Mac.

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=BUIGO>

Document "Listen to Your PDF" describes how to set the Read Out Loud options:

<http://www.adobe.com/designcenter/acrobat/articles/acr6araccessibility/acr6araccessibility.pdf>

## **Digital Text Resources**

*Once you have a text-to-speech reader on your computer you then need digital text for it to read aloud. Many sites have books that are in the public domain and free for download. Books under copyright can be downloaded free for use with "persons with print disabilities". For more information on this, see:*  
[http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/who\\_qualifies.html](http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/who_qualifies.html)

### **Bookshare.org**

Provides access to books for print disabled individuals by taking advantage of a special exemption in the U.S. copyright law that permits the reproduction of publications into specialized formats for the disabled. Free for students with disabilities who qualify.

<http://www.bookshare.org/web/SupportAboutUs.html>

### **Using Technology To Support Diverse Learners**

Annotated listing of a variety of print materials available online. Click on "FindingText1006.pdf" to download PDF document with active links.

<http://www.wested.org/cs/tidl/view/lib/2527>

### **Sites Linking or Containing Digital Books**

A huge master-site of digital libraries

<http://www.ditext.com/etexts.html>

## **Differentiating Text for Diverse Learners**

*There are many ways that text can be modified to make it more accessible to different learners. Many of these are built into MS Word.*

### **Features in Microsoft Word that Support Diverse Learners**

Descriptions for changing the visual display, using bullets and lists, adding comments and writing prompts, using embedded dictionary and thesaurus, translate foreign words, auto-summarizing and more

[http://www.wested.org/cs/tidl/view/tidl\\_tip/19](http://www.wested.org/cs/tidl/view/tidl_tip/19)

### **SymbolWorld**

Created by Widgit Software, SymbolWorld has reading material with picture supports for all ages and includes personal contributions, stories and learning materials. eLive is an on-line magazine within SymbolWorld especially for older readers.

<http://www.symbolworld.org/index.htm>

### **CAST UDL Editions**

UDL Editions by CAST are classic texts from world literature presented in a flexible online interface that provides individualized supports for struggling readers, and added-value features that engage novice and expert readers alike. Designed for students ages 10+.

<http://udleditions.cast.org/>

## **Audio Books**

### **Audio Books for Free**

Site for downloading MP3 versions of books, both fiction and non-fiction

[www.audiobooksforfree.com/home](http://www.audiobooksforfree.com/home)

### LibriVox

Librivox is a non-commercial, non-profit and ad-free project that donates its recordings to the public domain. Volunteers record books in the public domain available and makes them available for free in MP3 or OGG format on the Internet.

<http://librivox.org/>

### Free Classic Audio Books

Titles of classic literature with human voice. Downloadable as MP3 files.

<http://www.freeclassicaudiobooks.com/>

### Literal Systems

Free audio books in MP3 format, read by actors. Limited number of titles, but has literature classics such as Huckleberry Finn and The Heart of Darkness

<http://literalsystems.org/abooks/index.php>

### **Video Resources**

#### TeacherTube

Teacher approved short online videos searchable by topic

<http://www.teachertube.com/>

### **Readability Resources**

*The level of reading required for participation in the regular classroom often poses a challenge to including students who read below grade level. Below are resources to identify the readability level of printed material and adapt it to student's needs.*

#### Lexile Framework for Reading

This site helps determine the readability of text for a student.

- The [Lexile map](#) is a quick look at books, grade levels and lexile levels

[http://www.lexile.com/uploads/PDF's/LexileMapColor\\_4-4-07\\_11x17.pdf](http://www.lexile.com/uploads/PDF's/LexileMapColor_4-4-07_11x17.pdf)

-Search books by title and find its lexile readability at;

<http://www.lexile.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?view=ed&tabindex=5&tabid=67>

-Enter your own text and have it analyzed for lexile readability. Text needs to be in .txt format (Notepad does this) and be less than 1000 words long.

<http://www.lexile.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?view=ed&tabindex=2&tabid=16&tabpageid=335>

#### Infohio Lexile Resources

Information Network for Ohio Schools.

(Note: schools subscribe to Infohio and its resources: Username: think Password: infohio)

- SIRS Discoverer

<http://www.infohio.org/ER/secure/SIRS.asp>

- EBSCO Host

<http://www.infohio.org/ER/secure/EBSCO.asp>

### Beaverton Leveled Books Database

This interactive database allows you to search for books that have been leveled using either the Reading Recovery or Guided Reading methodologies

<http://registration.beavton.k12.or.us/lbdb/default.htm>

### ESL Reading

Provides free graded reading materials for English language learners.

Some texts are original while others are adaptations of classic texts. They are graded by vocabulary, grammar and readability.

<http://www.eslreading.org/index.html>

### Checking Readability in Microsoft Word

After Word does a spell check on a document, it can also tell you the reading grade level. Directions at:

[http://www.wested.org/cs/tdl/view/tdl\\_subtip/4](http://www.wested.org/cs/tdl/view/tdl_subtip/4)

### **Leveled Reading Websites**

*Content on these sites is presented at several different reading levels.*

Starchild: A learning center for young astronauts.

Two levels of readability. Topics: Solar System; Universe; Space Stuff

<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>

### Windows to the Universe

Explores Earth and Space sciences and the historical and cultural ties between science, exploration, and the human experience. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

<http://www.windows.ucar.edu/>

### Naturescapes

Provides multilevel, informational readings, resources, and activities related to nature including plants, animals, and habitats. Basics, More Detail and In Depth content levels.

<http://eduscapes.com/nature/>

### Spark Notes

- Study Guides

Online study guides for literature, poetry, history, math, writing, biology, physics and more

<http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/>

- No Fear Shakespeare

Provides both Shakespeare's original and modern English text side by side on the screen.

<http://nfs.sparknotes.com/>

## **Internet Search Tools for Students**

### CAST Strategy Tutor

A free online tool to support students and teachers doing reading and research on the Internet, ages 10 and up. Strategy Tutor helps students read, research, collect and understand information better and more efficiently. For teachers, Strategy Tutor provides a way to easily create web-based lessons embedded with research-based, highly effective learning strategy and vocabulary supports.

<http://cst.cast.org/cst/auth-login>

### TrackStar

Collect Web sites, enter them into TrackStar, add annotations for your students, and you have an interactive, online lesson called a Track. Create your own Track or use one of the hundreds of thousands already made by other educators.

<http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/>

### KidsClick!

Websearch for kids by librarians for valuable and appropriate websites. Click on “Advanced Search” to set reading level at: K-2; 3-6, or 7+

<http://www.kidsclick.org/>

### TekMom’s Search Tools for Students

A variety of kid-friendly web search tools. Just type into keyword into search box.

[www.tekmom.com](http://www.tekmom.com)

### AwesomeStories

A site of primary-source information. Its purpose is to help find original sources, located at national archives, libraries, universities, and government web sites. Reads text aloud

<http://www.awesomestories.com>

### Google Kids

Type in topic followed by “kids” to find content in a kid-friendly format

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

## **Reference Tools**

### Encyclopedia Britannica Online School Edition

Type-in word to look up. Click on a word to hear it spoken.

<http://school.eb.com/>

### Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary

<http://school.eb.com/dictionary>

### Facts Encyclopedia for Kids

<http://www.refdesk.com/kids.html>

### World Almanac for Kids Online

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com>

# Resources for Differentiating Process

## ReadWriteThink

A collection of online Student Materials to support literacy learning in the K-12 classroom. These interactive tools can be used to supplement a variety of lessons and provide an opportunity for students to use technology while developing their literacy skills.

[http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/index.asp](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp)

## Webmath

This site is composed of many math "fill-in-forms". You type-in the numbers you're working on and it will provide you with a step-by-step solution to the problem

[www.webmath.com](http://www.webmath.com)

## Starfall

Primarily designed for first grade, Starfall Reading Program is modeled on the "Big Five" focus areas of reading. Lots of interactive online activities with voice output and motivating visual supports.

<http://www.starfall.com/>

## Online Flash Cards

### - Flash Card Machine.

Make customized flash card sets with text and pictures online

<http://www.flashcardmachine.com/>

### - Quizlet

Enter a vocabulary list of any words or data you want.. Quizlet gives you a specialized learning mode, flashcards, randomly generated tests, and collaboration tools for classmates to help you study those words.

<http://quizlet.com/>

## Online Graphic Organizers

- Graphic Organizers 39 different graphic organizers for different writing assignments. Downloadable as Word or PDF files in either English or Spanish

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/graphicorg.html>

- Character Maps

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/CHARACTERIZATION-Portrait.pdf>

- ReadWriteThink Webbing Tool: a free-form graphic organizer

[http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=38](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=38)

- ReadWriteThink Story Map

[http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=8](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=8)

-ReadWrite Think Essay Map

[http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=63](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=63)

- ReadWriteThink Circle Plot Diagram

[http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=26](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=26)

## ClassTools

Uses Flash Player to create free educational games, activities and diagrams in such categories as graphic organizers, chronology, categorization, etc. Capability to host them on your own blog, website or intranet.

<http://www.classools.net/>

## The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives

A National Science Foundation supported project to develop a library of uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives or concept tutorials, mostly in the form of Java applets, for mathematics instruction.

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/>

# Resources for Differentiating Product

## **Multimedia Authoring Tools**

### Photo Story 3

A free Windows-based program that lets you quickly create a slideshow using PowerPoint with narration, music and special effects.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp>

### PowerPoint in the Classroom

A kid-friendly tutorial on using PowerPoint for education projects

<http://www.actden.com/pp2007/>

### CAST Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Book Builder

Use this site to create digital books that build reading skills for children, ages 3–10. Universally designed books will engage and support diverse learners according to their individual needs, interests, and skills.

<http://bookbuilder.cast.org/>

### StoryTools: 50 Web 2.0 Ways to Tell a Story

Wiki site with links to sites that have free tools to create a web-based story. In categories such as Slideshow Tools, Timeline Tools, Comic Tools, etc.. Author has created a sample of each using same theme/materials.

<http://cogdogroo.wikispaces.com/StoryTools>

### Animoto

Animoto is a web application that produces videos using images and music that a user selects and uploads for auto-editing. The resulting video has the appearance of a movie trailer and music video. Free for teachers at the website below. Note: sign-up from home page has limited usage; teacher sign-up below is unlimited.

[https://animoto.com/sign\\_up?promo=discovery](https://animoto.com/sign_up?promo=discovery)

## **Writing Tools**

### Create-a-Paper Template

template is designed to guide you through the first stages of creating the rough draft of a standard five-paragraph paper

[http://www.rio.maricopa.edu/distance\\_learning/tutorials/writing\\_guide/create\\_a\\_paper.shtml](http://www.rio.maricopa.edu/distance_learning/tutorials/writing_guide/create_a_paper.shtml)

### ReadWriteThink Interactive Timeline

Appropriate for grades K-12 in all content areas. It can be used as a productivity tool by displaying project deadlines or used to summarize a sequence of events.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/timeline/index.html>

### ReadWriteThink Letter Generator

Identify essential parts of a business or friendly letter, then generate letters using templates

[http://readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=5](http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=5)

### Google Docs for Educators

Google Docs is an online word processor, spreadsheet and presentation editor that enables teachers and students to create, store and share instantly and securely, and collaborate online in real time. You can create new documents from scratch or upload existing documents, spreadsheets and presentations. There's no software to download, and all your work is stored safely online and can be accessed from any computer.

[http://www.google.com/educators/p\\_docs.html](http://www.google.com/educators/p_docs.html)

# Resources for Learning About Differentiated Instruction

## Using Technology to Support Diverse Learners

Contains links to materials for professional development staff to adapt and use when helping teachers integrate technology into the curriculum to support all students

[http://www.wested.org/cs/tidl/view/tidl\\_topic/1](http://www.wested.org/cs/tidl/view/tidl_topic/1)

## Differentiation Toolbox

Resources to help teachers create differentiated lessons for students. Quiz to assess knowledge of D.I.

<http://people.virginia.edu/~mws6u/diff/index.htm>

## Bloom's Taxonomy Blooms Digitally

A fresh look at Bloom's Taxonomy of cognitive skills which categorizes and orders thinking skills and objectives relative to information and communication technology.

<http://21centuryconnections.com/node/507>

## Differentiated Instruction

Methods to reach all students in a mixed-ability classroom

[http://www.frsd.k12.nj.us/rfmslibrarylab/di/differentiated\\_instruction.htm](http://www.frsd.k12.nj.us/rfmslibrarylab/di/differentiated_instruction.htm)

## Differentiating Instruction using Technology: CITED Online Course

Provides a toolkit of tools, strategies, and resources to differentiate planning, instruction, management, and student assessment.

<http://airlearning.org/course/view.php?id=3>

## Online, Video, and Print Resources for Differentiated Instruction

<http://www.gpschools.org/ci/diff/resources.htm>

## Providing Authentic Multi-leveled Instruction

<http://www.coe.wayne.edu/wholeschooling/WS/Links/WSCLX3AuthTch.html>

## Fulfilling the Promise of Differentiation – Carol Tomlinson

Website of the leading authority in differentiated instruction.

<http://www.caroltomlinson.com/other.html>

## Better Living Through Technology

A non-commercial web site designed to promote the use of technology to help people with a range of disabilities.

<http://www.betterlivingthroughtechnology.com/index.htm>

## Internet4Classrooms

Helping teachers use the Internet effectively

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/index.htm>

## TechMatrix

A tool for finding educational and assistive technology products for students with special needs. Create a customized matrix by subject and/or learning support.

<http://www.techmatrix.org/matrix.aspx?f=75>